

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5014

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STATE PASS AID FOR DONOR LION

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP, EFIN, JM

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE FOR U.S. ECONOMIC TEAM

1. WE ANTICIPATE THAT MEMBERS OF LOCAL PRESS WILL MEET
US TEAM AT AIRPORT MAY 1. FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS AND
ANSWERS ON POSSIBLE QUESTIONS REPORTERS MAY ASK:

A. Q: IS THIS AMERICAN TEAM PREPARED, AND EMPOWERED, TO
ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS ON AID PROJECTS AND MAKE BINDING
COMMITMENTS OR IS THIS BASICALLY AN EXPLORATORY MISSION?

A: UNDER THE AGREED TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE TEAM, THIS
PARTICULAR SET OF MEETINGS WILL CONCENTRATE ON AN EXPLORATION
OF THE PROBLEM AND REFINEMENT OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR
A FUTURE TECHNICAL TEAM. AS SUCH, IT IS ESSENTIALLY EX-
PLORATORY IN NATURE.

B. Q: NOW THAT THE US HAS TAKEN WHAT APPEAR TO BE THE FIRST
STEPS TOWARD NORMALIZING ITS OWN RELATIONS WITH CUBA, IS THE
US PRESS LIKELY TO VIEW JAMAICA'S FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH CUBA
WITH SOMEWHAT LESS DISMAY?

A: THE US IS OF THE VIEW THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA,
LIKE ANY OTHER SOVEREIGN POWER, IS FREE TO CONDUCT ITS
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FOREIGN RELATIONS AS IT SEES FIT.

C. Q: A STORY APPEARED IN THE DAILY NEWS ABOUT A WEEK
AGO WHICH STATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE US AND
JAMAICA CONCERNING AID TO JAMAICA WERE IN AN "ADVANCED"
STAGE; THAT THE AMOUNT WAS LIKELY TO BE IN THE \$200
TO \$250 MILLION RANGE; AND THAT THE "AGREEMENT " WOULD BE
FINALIZED AT A MEETING BETWEEN PM MANLEY AND PRESIDENT

CARTER, PERHAPS AS EARLY AS JUNE. THE US EMBASSY, IN EFFECT, DENIED ALL THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THAT REPORT.

(1) HAVE THERE IN FACT BEEN ANY NEGOTIATING SESSIONS ON THIS SUBJECT BETWEEN JAMAICAN AND US REPRESENTATIVES IN WASHINGTON SUBSEQUENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON'S VISIT TO THE US?

(2) IF THE \$200 TO \$250 MILLION RANGE OF US AID IS "FAR TOO HIGH"-- AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED--WHAT IS THE LIKELY RANGE AT THIS TIME?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER BILATERAL MEETINGS SUBSEQUENT TO FOREIGN MINISTER PATTERSON'S MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE. IT WAS FELT BY BOTH SIDES THAT IT WOULD BE BEST NOT TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP AND ANNOUNCE ITS PRODUCTION PLAN, I THINK IT IS TOO EARLY TO MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS AS TO WHAT LEVEL OF ASSISTANCE THE US MAY BE ABLE TO MAKE AVAILABLE.

Q: A COLUMNIST IN THE DAILY GLEANER HAS INTIMATED THAT DURING HIS MEETING WITH FORMIN PATTERSON, SECRETARY VANCE INDICATED THAT THE ENDING OF THE JAMAICAN STATE OF EMERGENCY WAS A NECESSARY CONDITION OF ANY US AID TO JAMAICA. THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS VIGOROUSLY DENIED THIS ALLEGATION. ARE THERE, IN FACT, ANY ESSENTIAL CONDITIONS WHICH MUST BE MET?

A: NONE OF OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH JAMAICA HAVE INVOLVED ANY PRECONDITIONS.

Q: WAS THE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED " TWO-TIER DEVALUATION" OF THE JAMAICAN DOLLAR SUCH A CONDITION?

A: SAME AS ANSWER NO 4.

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Q: WILL THE WORKING OUT OF PRECISE LEVELS OF US AID DEPEND ON JAMAICA'S FIRST WORKING OUT A "DEAL" WITH THE IMF??

A: SAME AS ANSWER NO 4

Q: PRESIDENT CARTER-- AND NUMEROUS CONGRESSMEN--HAVE STATED THAT MORE AND MORE US AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WOULD BE CHANNLED THROUGH THE MULTILATERAL LENDING AGENCIES RATHER THAN BEING NEGOTIATED ON A BILATERAL BASIS. DOES THE US CONSIDER JAMAICA A SPECIAL CASE, OR IS YOUR TEAM GOING TO BE ADVISING THE JAMAICAN TEAM MEMBERS ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE MULTILATERAL AGENCIES?

A: IT IS TRUE THAT THERE IS AN INCREASING EMPHASIS ON MULTILATERAL LENDING BUT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD RULE OUT THE DESIRABILITY OF BILATERAL ASSISTANCE FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES. THERE IS A ROLE FOR BOTH KINDS OF ASSISTANCE. AMONG OTHER THINGS WE WILL WANT TO INSURE THAT THE VARIOUS DONOR AND LENDING INSTITUTIONS DO NOT WORK AT CROSS PURPOSES AND THAT OUR ASSISTANCE CAN BE CHANNLED INTO A WORKABLE OVERALL PLAN.

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